**Hyperbole**

**Read and think:** He could shoot a bumblebee in the eye at sixty paces, and he was a man who was not afraid to shake hands with lightening. --- Harold W. Felton, *Pecos Bill and the Mustang*

**Talk about it:**

1. This is an example of **hyperbole,** an exaggeration that is based on truth but carries the truth to such an extreme that it is no longer literally true. Of course, Pecos Bill couldn’t literally do these things. What, then, is the purpose of saying that he could?

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1. Compare Felton’s sentence with this one:

*He could shoot very well, and he was not afraid of anything.*

Which sentence better helps the reader understand what Pecos Bill was like? Why?

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**Now you try it:**

Write a sentence about a great athlete, using hyperbole. Model your sentence after Felton’s sentence.

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Take from *Discovering Voice,* Nancy Dean, 2006

**The Rebel**

Mari Evans

When I   
die   
I'm sure   
I will have a   
Big Funeral ...

Curiosity   
seekers ...   
coming to see   
if I   
am really   
Dead ...   
or just   
trying to make   
Trouble ...

1. What is the tone of this poem? Explain.

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1. What types of experiences do you think would inspire such a poem?

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1. Explain the hyperbole in this poem. What is the speaker really saying?

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